FBI Is Ruled Out Of Hill Schorr Probe

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The House ethics committee has followed the advice of Speaker Carl Albert and decided against using FBI agents to investigate the leak of the secret house CIA report.

Instead, Committee Chairman John J. Flynt (D.-Ga.) said yesterday, a staff of 10 investigators will be assembled from private sources—lawyers and accountants—to find out how the report of the House intelligence committee, which the House ordered not be released, reached CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr, who passed it onto the New York weekly, The Village Voice.

"We would rather have someone responsible to the committee alone, not someone else," conduct the investigation, Flynt said. He said no pressure had been put on the committee not to use FBI agents. But Albert expressed reservations last week about using an executive branch agency to conduct an investigation for Congress.

Flynt has requested $350,00 to make the investigation and is expected to get a hearing on the sum next week before a House Administration subcommittee, Some members have criticized the figure as high.

Reps. Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.), chairman of the intelligence committee whose report was leaked, said he had told Flynt he could save the taxpayers a lot of money by calling up Schoor and asking where he got it. Flynt said the committee had discussed doing that, but Rep. Thomas S. Foley (D-Wash.), another member of the ethics committee, said they didn't think Schoor would tell them.

At a meeting of House Democratic regional whips yesterday morning, Flynt reported on what his committee was doing. One who was present said Flynt's focus is more on who leaked the report to Schorr than on punishing Schoor for passing it along.

Later Flynt told reporters, "The House wants to know what happened to one or more copies of the preliminary draft of the report of the select committee on intelligence. This will be neither an inquisition nor a witch hunt. There is no intention to go after one person."

Pike has offered to cooperate fully with the investigation, Flynt said, and Pike said he wants to find out where the leak began. He had suggested earlier that the source might have been the CIA, which was given a copy of his committee's report.

Flynt told reporters he hasn't any idea how much time or money will be needed to complete the assignment. In drafting a budget he asked for $110,000 for investigators—which means paying 10 persons $100 per day for 110 days, or an investigation that would last through July 31.

The investigation could take two weeks or 10 months, he said, declaring that the committee did the best it could in estimating money needs on the basis of the experience of other House investigations. The ethics committee has never conducted such an inquiry.

Flynt also plans a staff of three attorneys and secretaries and security personnel. He has budgeted a total of $185,000 for personnel and $165,000 for travel, equipment, telephones and supplies.